

HOUSE No. 1.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

STATE OF VERMONT.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
ST. JOHNSBURY, December 30, 1876. }

To His Excellency Hon. ALEXANDER H. RICE, *Governor of Massachusetts.*

SIR:—I have the honor to transmit herewith to your Excellency a copy of an Act passed at the recent session of the Legislature of this State, in which I am directed to invite, in the name of the State, the States of New Hampshire and Massachusetts to unite with Vermont in erecting a monument at Bennington in memory of the heroes of the Battle of Bennington.

In complying with this request, I feel sure I give expression to the earnest desire of all the citizens of this State. And as the States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont together won this decisive victory, it seems eminently fitting that they should together observe the centennial anniversary of the great event by joining in the erection of a monument to the memory of the men who wrought so nobly, sacrificed so grandly and died so bravely.

Trusting that Massachusetts will heartily coöperate with Vermont and New Hampshire in this proposal to do honor to their patriot dead,

I remain, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

HORACE FAIRBANKS.

THE LAW PASSED AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE RELATING TO THE BENNINGTON MONUMENT AND CELEBRATION.

AN ACT

To incorporate the Bennington Battle Monument Association.

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

SECTION 1. Hiland Hall, Horace Fairbanks, W. H. H. Bingham, Justin S. Morrill, E. J. Phelps, Geo. F. Edmunds, Isaac Jennings, Trenor W. Park, John B. Page, Jacob Estey, E. P. Walton, John Gregory Smith, Asabel Peck, John W. Stewart, Abram B. Gardner, Paul Dillingham, Harmon Canfield, Edward Seymour, Burnam Martin, Frederick Billings, Franklin Butler, Jed. P. Ladd, Mason S. Colburn, Edward A. Sowles, Carroll S. Page, E. D. Mason, W. W. Grout, E. P. Colton, Geo. N. Dale, Duane L. Kent, Gilbert A. Davis, Homer Goodhue, Milo C. Huling, J. Henry Guild, Geo. W. Farwell, Oscar E. Butterfield, Cyrus Jennings, E. D. Blodgett, Redfield Proctor, John Lovejoy Mason, Eben Graves, Hiram Barton; and Seth B. Hunt, H. Henry Baxter, and Wm. M. Evarts, of the city of New York; Samuel B. Sanford and Daniel Robinson, of Troy, N. Y.; and Sidney B. Squires, of Boston, Massachusetts, with seven persons to be elected annually in January by the Bennington Historical Society, are hereby constituted, with their associates and successors, a body politic and corporate by the name of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a suitable monument commemorative of the achievements of General John Stark and the patriot soldiers of Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, at the decisive battle of Bennington, fought on the 16th day of August, 1777, with all the rights and powers incident to corporations; and said corporation shall be located at Benning-

ton, and may have a common seal and the same alter at pleasure; may sue and be sued; may make such laws and regulations as may be necessary, not inconsistent with the laws of this State; and may take and hold by gift, purchase, devise, or otherwise, real and personal estate to the amount of \$30,000, and the same manage and dispose of for the purposes of said corporation.

SECT. 2. The governor, lieutenant-governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and the chief justice of the supreme court shall be members *ex officio* of this corporation; and said corporation at their first meeting, or at any annual meeting, may elect by ballot any number of persons not exceeding sixty in all, exclusive of the members *ex officio*, to be members of the corporation.

SECT. 3. At their first annual meeting said corporation shall elect a president, a vice-president, a treasurer, a secretary, and a board of directors, and may elect other officers as they shall see fit. The treasurer shall give bonds in such sum as the directors shall determine, and these may be increased from time to time as they may order.

SECT. 4. The governor is hereby directed to invite, in the name of this State, the States of New Hampshire and Massachusetts to unite with the State of Vermont in erecting a battle monument at Bennington.

SECT. 5. No moneys appropriated by the State shall be expended by this association in the erection of a monument until sufficient funds shall have been accumulated by the association to complete it.

SECT. 6. This association shall at their first annual meeting take measures to secure at Bennington, during the week of the 16th of August, 1877, an appropriate centennial celebration of the battle of Bennington, and also the recognition of the year 1877 as the 100th year of the existence of this State as an independent State.

SECT. 7. The auditor of accounts is hereby directed to draw his order on the treasurer of the State in favor of the treasurer of this association for the sum of \$15,000 upon receiving satisfactory proof that said association has raised and is in actual possession of available funds to the amount of \$5,000 to be expended for the erection of a battle monument

at Bennington; he is also directed to draw a further order for the sum of \$2,000 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section six, provided the association shall raise the sum of \$2,000 for this purpose.

SECT. 8. The first meeting of this corporation shall be held without further notice on the second Wednesday in January, A. D. 1877, at the court-house in said town of Bennington, at 10 o'clock in forenoon, at which meeting any ten of said corporators shall be a quorum for business.

SECT. 9. This act shall take effect from its passage.